IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 2, 3, and 5-8, amend Claims 1 and 4, and add new Claim 9 as follows:

1. Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus which includes ~~comprising~~ illuminating means for illuminating image information of an original placed on an original support, and image forming means for forming an image of the image information on reading means, and two-dimensionally reads the image information by changing a relative position between the image information and the reading means,

wherein said illuminating means includes ~~including~~ a ~~plurality of~~ a first light source portion ~~portions~~ and a second light source portion; and

wherein ~~image forming means for imaging the image information on said reading means, the image information being read in a two dimensional manner by changing a relative position between the image information and said reading means, and said plurality of~~ the first and second light source portions ~~being~~ are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-sectional plane so that a specular reflection light having been emitted from the first light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the second light source portion, and a specular reflection light having been emitted from the second light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the first light source portion.

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus which includes ~~comprising~~ illuminating means for illuminating image information of an original placed on an original support, image forming means for forming an image of the image information on reading means, and two-dimensionally reads the image information by changing a relative position between the image information and the reading means,

wherein said illuminating means includes ~~including~~ a ~~plurality of~~ a first light source portion ~~portions~~ and a second light source portion; and a ~~plurality of~~ first reflective portion[[s]] and a second reflective portion each of which is provided corresponding to said ~~plurality of~~ first and second light source portions and adapted to reflect light from said first and second light source portions toward a side of the image information, respectively[[;]] , and

~~reading means; and~~

wherein ~~image forming means for imaging the image information on said reading means, the image information being read in a two dimensional manner by changing a relative position between the image information and said reading means, and said plurality of~~ the first and second reflective portions ~~being~~ are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of said image forming means in a sub-scanning cross-sectional plane so that a specular reflection light having been emitted from the first light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the second light source portion and a specular reflection light having been emitted from the second light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the first reflective portion.

5.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) An image reading apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the first and second light source portions are disposed asymmetrically with respect to the optical axis of the image forming means in the sub-scanning cross-sectional plane so that the specular reflection light having been emitted from the first light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the second light source portion and the specular reflection light having been emitted from the second light source portion and reflected on the original is not incident on the first light source portion.